

Mr. F. W. Bird.

Mr. F. W. BIRD, a politician whose crotchets and whose vagaries have plagued the Republican Party of Massachusetts ever since it had an existence, is now, naturally, the most active leader of the scanty band of "Liberal" Republicans in the Bay State. He has undertaken to demolish HENRY WILSON in the *Tribune*, and in a recent letter to the *Boston Post*, to break the force of Mr. GARRISON's powerful letter to Senator SUMNER, by disclosing the terrible and startling fact, which he seems to think entirely new to the public, that the great abolition leader was a disunionist before the rebellion began; and, therefore, according to Mr. BIRD, has no right "to read to CHARLES SUMNER or HORACE GREELEY lectures upon practical statesmanship." To prove that Mr. GARRISON was a disunionist, he cites from the *Liberator* various strongly-expressed passages written or spoken by Mr. GARRISON in 1854, 1856 and 1858, in which the Union is denounced, and the Constitution described as "a covenant with death and an agreement with hell."

We suppose no intelligent person, of mature years at least, needs to be told that Mr. GARRISON was for a long time in the habit of denouncing the Union and the Constitution, on the ground that they were pro-slavery; but it is equally notorious that when the slaveholders themselves attacked the Union, and trampled on the Constitution of which they had professed to be the special champions, Mr. GARRISON, like other patriotic citizens gave the warmest support to

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the cause of his assailed country, and from that day to this has never uttered a syllable of hostility to the Union or the Constitution. He was never, in fact, hostile to them from want of patriotism, but solely from an honest, though mistaken conviction, that slavery could not be got rid of as long as they existed.

Mr. BIRD, however, upbraids him with his theoretical disunionism of twenty-five years ago, overlooking and condoning Mr. GREKLEY's later willingness to let the South go at a time when disunion was a very practical question—and, finally, makes in his letter the following thrust at Garrisonian disunionists generally:

"The impartial historian, in inquiring for the causes of the slaveholders' rebellion, will be compelled to declare that no man and no set of men were more responsible for the war than GARRISON and his followers."

In the face of this violent attack upon Mr. GARRISON, what shall we say of the fact that this very Mr. BIRD was himself the President of a Disunion Convention which assembled at Worcester, Mass., in January, 1857, and in which GARRISON and WENDELL PHILLIPS were the leading orators? A few months later, that is to say in July, 1857, there appeared in the *Boston Traveller*, and, we presume, in other Boston papers, a circular beginning thus: "The State Disunion Convention, held at Worcester, Mass., January, 1857, [of which Mr. BIRD was President.] recommended a National Convention, based on the same principles, during the present year." This circular was signed by WENDELL PHILLIPS, WILLIAM LLOYD GARRISON, and—F. W. BIRD!

This circular was published July 24, and was dated July 8. Three days before that date, on July 5, Mr. BIRD addressed a letter, over his own signature, to Mr. GARRISON's *Liberator*, in which he said: "Accustom the people to look at disunion, not as a raw-head-and-bloody-bones monster, but as a possible, probable, and, in the present tendency of things, a desirable result."

This, we think, will do for Mr. BIRD, so far as disunionism is concerned. But in our researches into his record, we find something additional to quote in reference to his recent venomous attack on HENRY WILSON as a Know-nothing. That attack was made in a communication in Thursday's *Tribune*, in which Mr. BIRD cites and condemns a letter written by Mr. WILSON in 1855. Mark the date! Two years later—that is to say in 1857—we find in the *Tribune* a letter from Mr. BIRD, over his signature, dated "East Walpole, Mass., June 27," in which, speaking of HENRY WILSON, he expresses his "entire conviction of his (WILSON'S) perfect sincerity and integrity," and adds, "the personal relations between Gen. WILSON and myself have been thoroughly cordial and confidential up to this day." In the same letter he again says: "The relations of personal and political intimacy between Major BURLINGAME and WILSON, more especially with the latter, have never been disturbed."

And yet, after this emphatic declaration of sympathy, personal and political, as late as 1857, Mr. BIRD coolly ventures to denounce Mr. WILSON for a letter published in 1855!

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NEW YORK, Aug 26 1872

Dear Sir,

On seeing Mr Bird's reply, or rather attempted reply to your letter to Mr Sumner, I sent the ⁶⁴ enclosed article to The N.Y. Times where it appeared this morning. It may recall to you, in case you see fit to respond to him certain facts in his own career which may be of service to you.

Mr Greeley himself never claimed to be an abolitionist of any school. I have heard him abuse the Liberty Party in the most severe manner and in Feb 1861 he told me in his own office, that he had "never known an abolitionist who was not a damned fool." "The special cause

of his wrath at that moment.
was an article written by
S. H. Gay for the Tribune in
18. There was something dis-
respectful to Virginia. It
was just before she seceded.

Very truly yours

Robert Claiborne
Mr Garrison.